

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLESNOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULEMAKING

The Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles, pursuant to the authority set forth in Section 1825 of the Department of Motor Vehicles Establishment Act of 1998, effective March 26, 1999 (D.C. Law 12-175; D.C. Official Code § 50-904); Section 6(c) of the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act, approved October 21, 1968 (82 Stat. 1206; D.C. Official Code § 2-505(c)); Title VIII of the Motor Vehicle and Safe Driving Amendment Act of 2000, effective April 27, 2001 (D.C. Law 13-289; D.C. Official Code § 50-921); and Mayor's Order 03-58, effective April 21, 2003, hereby gives notice of the adoption, on an emergency basis, of a temporary amendment to Chapter 4 of Title 18 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR) (Vehicles and Traffic). The amendment allows the display of a tag on the rear of a vehicle only, for a limited time surrounding the inaugural period, so as to accommodate the display of a souvenir presidential inaugural plate on the front of the vehicle.

The facts that constitute emergency circumstances are as follows:

For past inaugurations, the Department of Motor Vehicles and its predecessor agencies have permitted the use of inauguration license plates on both the front and rear of a motor vehicle. This was accomplished through the issuance of a corresponding registration certificate, which allowed the inaugural tags to serve as proof the vehicle's registration. In reviewing this procedure in anticipation of the impending inauguration, the Department has identified legal and operational obstacles to continuing this practice. The Department will therefore no longer issue inaugural plates as temporary replacements of a vehicle's permanent tags.

However, the Department is mindful that many District residents will nevertheless seek to display an inaugural plate on their vehicles. In order to accommodate this interest, while still ensuring that at least one permanent tag is displayed, the Department is temporarily suspending the requirement that license plates be displayed on both the front and the rear of a vehicle. This will allow a souvenir presidential inaugural plate to be displayed on the front of a vehicle for the time period provided in this rulemaking, while still requiring that one of its currently assigned plates be displayed on the rear.

This emergency rule will take effect on January 7, 2005, and will expire 11:59 p.m., April 15, 2005, which coincides with the traditional inaugural period.

Title 18, DCMR, Chapter 4, Section 422, DISPLAY OF IDENTIFICATION TAGS, is amended as follows:

1) Subsection 422.1 is amended to read as follows (new language shown in bold and underlined):

422.1 Whenever a motor vehicle or trailer for which District of Columbia registration is required is being operated or left standing upon any public highway, such vehicle shall display two (2) current identification tags, one (1) on the front and the other on the rear; except as follows:

(a) Motor vehicles need only display a special use identification tag on the rear of the vehicle; or

**(b) Motor vehicles may display a souvenir presidential inauguration tag on the front of the vehicle, provided that a current identification tag is displayed on the rear.**

2) A new subsection 422.8 is added to read as follows:

422.8 Subsection 422.1 shall expire on April 15, 2005.